

PUBLIC INVITED TO SETTLE QUESTION OF LIQUOR AT SEA

Department of Justice to Start Open Hearing on Much Debated Issue July 13—Everybody Welcome to Come Forward With Views.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD—New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., July 7. Continued attacks in the Senate on the Shipping Board for permitting sale of liquor outside the three mile limit have resulted in a decision by the Department of Justice to hold hearings, beginning July 13, to determine its legality.

Representatives of the Shipping Board and Prohibition Commissioner Haynes will be present. Requests to be heard have been received from the Anti-Saloon League and certain steamship lines.

The increased opposition to the Ship Subsidy bill in the Senate and House because of the liquor feature makes it extremely doubtful whether it can be passed in either body unless some guarantee is provided that nothing stronger than grape juice will be served on American ships on the high seas.

Asks 18 Mile Dead Line.

The Department of Justice, in announcing its intention to initiate the hearings declared it was prompted by a desire to see that everybody concerned in the question has an opportunity to present his views. A brief from any one interested in this subject, accompanied by a request to be heard, will be considered and spokesmen for interested organizations of various kinds will be given an opportunity to make oral argument.

In the meantime Senator Sterling (Rep., S. D.) added to the confusion of the prohibition situation by introducing a bill under which prohibition enforcement officers could board and search a ship within six marine leagues (eighteen miles) of the coast of the United States. The bill is in the form of an amendment to the tariff bill and was ordered to the tariff bill and was ordered to the tariff bill and was ordered to the tariff bill.

SENATE REJECTS CLOTURE; TARIFF REVOLT INCREASES

Continued from First Page.

other side of the aisle; and if the President in his speech before the club, in which he denounced the senators in Congress, did not have the senators on the other side of the aisle in mind?"

Voices Are Discordant.

Senator Watson admitted there are too many members of Congress inclined to hold "individual views" on most questions who are not disposed to support the primary system, saying that after men go out and win their own battles often they do not feel any sense of party responsibility.

Senator Stanley (Ky.) then said: "May I respectfully and affectionately suggest to my good friend and neighbor (Senator Watson of Indiana) that the trouble with this Republican club, this doleful chorus of which the President spoke, is not that one man is singing and singing, but that too many are singing, and singing in different tunes. For instance, whenever the President sings in falsetto the powerful voice of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Borah) is heard in a deep and discordant bass, and when the President wants to sing low the Senator from California (Mr. Johnson) persists in singing high, and when the President wants to sing a good old reactionary doxology the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Borah) breaks out in a progressive anthem."

"It is not that there is only one singing, but that there are a half dozen singing at the same time and all singing in a different tune and on a different theme."

Senator La Follette's speech was highly dramatic as well as forceful. The Wisconsin Senator, short of stature, occupied almost the entire afternoon, directing his assault chiefly against the steel, cotton and wool schedules and condemning the measure because of its ancient preparation.

Recalls Taft's Course.

One of the outstanding features of the speech was an imitation of William H. Taft, which took place during a description of the visit to the White House during the Taft Administration, when Senator La Follette called there to condemn the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill. Mr. Taft had promised the Wisconsin Senator to veto the bill unless the rates were revised downward, Senator La Follette charged, and while he did not accuse Mr. Taft of breaking his promise he left that inference.

Senator La Follette repeated the conversation between the two, acting first one part and then the other. In the part of Mr. Taft he continually caused a broad smile in the Senate, since the characterization was that of a man surrounded by political complications.

"When the Payne-Aldrich bill passed I went to the White House," said Senator La Follette, "and I said: 'Mr. President, the bill has passed the Senate. It is infinitely worse than when it passed the House. I have not been home for more than a year. I am going home while it is in conference; I have just come to pay my respects to you. I have not been able to come to you for six weeks because of the hours of meeting of the Senate.'"

"Well," he said, "he did not have his fist doubled up at that time; he did not hit the top of his desk with his clenched fist; the starch seemed to be pretty well out of him, and he said: 'What am I going to do?'"

"I said to him: 'Mr. President, I do not know what you are going to do, but I do know what you told me you would do. You told me you would veto that bill unless it was improved, unless it was a revision downward, if it was anything like the bill that passed the House.'"

"Well," he said, "suppose I cannot veto it—what will I do?"

to lie on the table and await consideration after the committee amendments to the measure have been disposed of. Senator Sterling's amendment is designed to aid the Government in preventing the smuggling of liquor into this country and to prevent vessels anchoring just outside the three mile limit and disposing of wet cargoes.

Haynes Defends Cider.

Prohibition Commissioner Haynes today in a letter to Representative John Philip Hill (Md.), one of the leading wets of Congress, denied he would not prosecute manufacturers of cider and fruit juices containing as much as 2.75 per cent alcohol. At the same time, however, he said he would not fix a limit as to the amount of alcohol which home brewed cider and fruit juices might contain, which presumably means that they may exceed one-half of 1 per cent. In his letter Mr. Haynes said:

"It has been the practice from time immemorial for farmers and other householders in rural communities to manufacture cider for conversion into vinegar, which is a condiment for family use, and also to manufacture grape and other fruit juices which are frequently sterilized and preserved in sealed glass containers for family use. The manufacture of malt liquor, such as beer, ale and porter, in the home by the housewife for family use has seldom if ever been practiced until the advent of prohibition. They have always been used as beverages and have practically no use for conversion into condiments such as vinegar."

"Furthermore, it is entirely impracticable to make a satisfactory and wholesome malt liquor in the home and the course suggested by you would necessarily mean the manufacture of the malt liquors in breweries and further amendments to laws to provide for their distribution, sale and use, with or without tax payment."

"I said: 'I do not know.'"

"Well," he said, "tell me some of the bad things that are in it."

"Oh," I said, "Mr. President, that will take too long."

"He said: 'Tell me some of the worst things.'"

"And I began to tell him something and he began to write, and when he had filled the first page of the pad he threw down the pencil and the pad and he said: 'Senator La Follette, won't you go and write me a letter analyzing this bill and telling me the worst things in it?'"

"I said to him: 'Mr. President, I have my reservations to go home. I was going to take the train to-day.'"

"He said: 'Well, I request it.'"

"I said: 'That is equivalent to a command, pretty nearly, and I will go and cancel my reservations.'"

"I did. I sent him the next day, not perfect by any means, but I did send him the best analysis I could make in that brief time of that abomination. Then I took the train for Wisconsin, and when I reached home I received, and have now in my files, a letter from him thanking me for putting into his possession that analysis of the bill, imperfect as it was, of course; and then, surrounded as he was, he did what you might expect him to do; he surrendered and signed the bill."

Senator La Follette devoted much time to discussing the political disaster which, he said, the Republican party following the action on the Payne-Aldrich law.

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